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Newport Mercury

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Poetry.

The following is the beautiful poem of John G. Whittier, read at the Annual Meeting of the Alumni of Providence Friends School, June 15, 1863.

"IN WAR-TIME."

Once more, dear friends, you meet beneath
A cloudy sky;
Not yet the sword has found its sheath,
And, on the sweet spring air, the breath
Of war floats by.
Yet trouble springs not from the ground,
Nor pain from chance;
The Eternal order circles round,
And wave and storm find note and bound
In Providence.
Full long our feet the flowery ways
Of peace have trod,
Content with creed and garb and phrase;
A harder path in early days
Led up to God.
Too cheaply truce, once purchased dear,
Are made our own;
Too long the world has smiled to hear
Our boast of full corn in the ear,
By others sown.
To see as stir the martyr fires
Of long ago;
And wrap our satisfied desires
In the angel mantle of repose
Have dropped below.
But now the cross our worthless bore
On us is laid.
Profession's quiet sleep is o'er,
And in the scale of truth once more
Our fate is weighed.
The cry of innocent blood at last
Is calling down
An answer in the whirlwind blast,
The thunder and the shadow cast
From Heaven's dark frown.
The land is red with judgments. Who
Stands guiltless forth?
Have we been faithful as we knew,
To God and to our brother true,
To Heaven and Earth?
How faint, through din of merchandise
And count of gain,
Has seemed to us the captive's cry?
How far away the tears and sighs
Of souls in pain!
This day the fearful reckoning comes
To each and all;
We hear amidst our peaceful homes
The summons of the constricting drum,
The bugle's call.
Our path is plain; the war-net draws
Round us in vain,
While, faithful to the Higher Cause,
We keep our fealty to the laws
Through patient pain.
The leveled gun, the battle-bran
We may not take;
But, calmly loyal, we can stand
And suffer with our suffering land
For conscience' sake.
Why ask for ease where all is pain?
Shall we alone
Be left to add our gain to gain,
When over Armageddon's plain
The trumpet blows?
To suffer well is well to serve;
Sole in our Lord
The rigid lines of law shall curve
To spare us; from our heads shall sweep
Its smiling sword.
And light is mingled with the gloom,
And joy with grief;
Divest compensation come,
Through thorns of judgment merces bloom,
In sweet relief.
Thanks for our privilege to bless,
By word and deed,
The widow in her keen distress,
The childless and the fatherless,
The hearts that bleed!
For fields of duty, opening wide,
Where all our powers
Are tasked the eager steps to guide
Of millions on a path untold:
THE SLAVE IS OURS!
Ours by traditions dear and old
Which make the race
Our words to cherish and uphold,
And cast their freedom in the mold
Of Christian grace.
And we may tread the sick-bed floors
Where strong men pine,
And, down the groaning corridors,
Four freely from our liberal stores
The oil and wine.
Who murmurs that in these dark days
His lot is cast?
God's hand within the shadow lays
The stones whereon His gates of praise
Shall rise at last.
Turn, and O'erturn, O'erstretched hand!
Nor slumber stay;
The years have never dropped their sand
On mortal lease vast and grand
As ours to-day.
Already, on the sable ground
Of man's despair,
Is freedom's glorious picture found,
With all its dusky hands unbound,
Upraised in prayer.
Oh, small shall seem all sacrifice
And pain and loss,
When God shall wipe the weeping eyes,
For sufferer, give the victor's prize,
The crown for cross.
GOD SPEED THE PLOW.
God speed the plow-share! tell me not
Disgrace attends the toil
Of those who plow the dark green sod,
Or till the fruitful soil.
Why should the honest plowman shrink
From mingling in the van
Of learning and of wisdom, since
"A mind that makes the man!"
God speed the plow-share! and the hands
That till the fruitful earth!
For there is in this world so wide
No gem like honest worth,
And though the hands are dark with toil,
And drenched the manly brow,
It matters not for God will bless
The labor of the plow.

Selected Tale.

THE OLD BUREAU.

As we were passing down Exchange street, several years ago, we stopped in front of an auction room to examine the various articles that were exposed to be sold under the hammer. We had been there but a few minutes when we heard a female voice inquiring, "Is this bureau to be sold to-day?" "But I never bought anything at auction in all my life, and I see no women here. I do not know as it would be proper for me to bid."

"It would be perfectly proper," we remarked; "but if you wish I will bid off the bureau."

"If you will, sir, I shall be greatly obliged to you."

"How high are you willing to go?"

"I don't know exactly how much it is worth, but if it sells for three or four dollars, you may buy it."

"Shall I speak to a handcart-man to leave it at your house?"

"No, sir, I'll call at noon and settle for it and take it away. I am very much obliged to you for your kindness."

So saying the lady went away, leaving us to wonder who she was, and of what use the old bureau could be to her. We examined it, took out the drawers, and saw nothing remarkable about it. At eleven o'clock, when the auction commenced, we were present, and after waiting nearly an hour, the auctioneer remarked, "We will now sell this bureau. What will you give me, gentlemen? One man offered two dollars, another three, and we bid half a dollar more. Four dollars were bid—four and a half and five dollars. We were astonished that the old thing should bring such a price. What should we do—see it sold and disappoint the lady? The idea struck us that it might have belonged to some friend, and she wished to purchase it on that account, and rather than disappoint her, we resolved to bid again. The bureau ran up to ten dollars, and we purchased it for half a dollar more. Certainly we should not have given four dollars for it to use ourself. However, we bought it, and had it sent to our room, telling the auctioneer that if a lady should call for it, to inform her where it might be found.—We examined it again, and began to regret our purchase, feeling almost certain that the young woman would not thank us for what we had done; but never morn over a bad bargain. Our philosophy will not permit us to do so.

A little after dusk, as we were sitting in our sanctum, the young lady came in, with an apology for intruding, and remarked, "You bought the bureau, so the auctioneer informs me."

"Yes, I bought it at an extravagant price, I assure you."

"What did you give?"

"Ten dollars and a half."

"You astonish me. What can I do? I had no idea that it would bring over three dollars and a half, and am not prepared to pay for it to-night."

"I suppose it was foolish in me to give so much for it, but I presumed you wanted it very much."

"I did, sir, and would not value paying double the amount for the bureau, if I were able, rather than not have it."

"So I apprehended. Perhaps it belonged to some friend of yours?"

"Yes, sir, that bureau was once my mother's—and I noticed a tear come in her eye, which she endeavored to conceal—but she is dead now, and I want to keep it in remembrance of her."

Thinking the lady might be poor, we told her that she might take the bureau that night if she wished, and pay us when she found it convenient.

"I am greatly obliged to you for your kindness, but rather you should keep it until it is paid for."

We urged her to take it, but she refused, saying: "I will see what I can do, and call in a day or two and see you;" and, bidding us good evening, she left.

There is something very mysterious about this woman, thought we. It may be that she is poor, and perhaps in very destitute circumstances. But she showed an excellent heart, and the warmest attachment to a deceased mother. Her education must have been good, and she has evidently seen better days. And we thought the next time she called upon us, we would ascertain something more of her character and circumstances—perhaps her name—which we felt deeply anxious to learn.

In a day or two the young woman called upon us again, and with tears in her eyes remarked, "I do not know what you will think of me, but all the money I have in

the world is five dollars; this I have brought to you towards the bureau you were so kind as to purchase for me." So saying she placed the money before me in silver.

"I shall not take the money at present," I remarked; "I can do without it; and when you are able at some future time you may pay for it."

She expressed a great deal of gratitude and said, "I would rather you should take what I have, and nothing that we could say would induce her to take the money back again."

"You appear to have seen some affliction," we remarked, as we saw the tears in her eyes.

"Not much, sir; I must confess that I have not always been as poor as I am at present; for I have seen better days.—When my parents were living I never knew what it was to want for anything. Now I cannot say so."

"How long have your parents been dead?"

"About six years since my father died; and it was four years ago last Saturday since my mother died."

At the mention of her mother's name, the tears came to her eyes—a tender chord was touched—we saw it and made no more inquiries, when she took her leave.

It was nearly six weeks before I saw the young lady again. She then called upon us with the remainder of the money that we had paid for the bureau.

We declined receiving it at that time, thinking it might have been inconvenient for her to pay it. "I am under great obligations to you for your kindness. Had it not been for you I should not have the bureau, the only relic of my mother, for it was then impossible for me to raise the money you so generously paid. I shall never forget your kindness."

"Do you wish to take the bureau away now?"

"I have spoken to a cartman who will call here in a short time, and have it removed out of your way, for I suppose you will be glad of it."

"Not at all. I am pleased that I was instrumental of a little service to you, and if you ever need assistance, I shall ever be ready to render it."

"I thank you, sir, with all my heart."

At this moment the man came for the bureau, and bidding us good morning the young lady left the room.

"Going, going—will you give but two dollars for this excellent bureau?" exclaimed Mr. Barley, the auctioneer, a year or two since, as we were passing down Exchange street. "Here, Mr. C., he said, turning to us, 'buy this bureau; it is worth more for kindling wood than it is going for. Just look at it—going—going quick, or you lose it.'"

Two dollars and fifty cents we bid, as we saw it was the same bureau we had bought several years before for ten and a half dollars, and it was knocked off to us.

This is singular enough, thought we, as we had the article carried to our room. Where is the young woman who formerly owned it. Who was she?

We made several enquiries, but could not ascertain who she was or what had become of her. The bureau had been carried to the auction room by an individual whom Mr. Barley never saw before, and all our enquiries to ascertain what became of the young lady seemed fruitless.

Several months passed by, and still we heard nothing of the young lady, when one day, not knowing but we might get some clue of the former owner, we took out all the drawers separately and examined them. We saw no writing whatever. In the back of the under drawer was noticed that a small piece of pine had been inserted. It looked as if it had been to stop a defect. Prying it with a knife it came out, there was—and I noticed a tear come in my eye, which she endeavored to conceal—but she is dead now, and I want to keep it in remembrance of her."

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United States Laws.

OFFICIAL.

Passed at the Third Session of the Thirty-seventh Congress.

[Public—No. 58.]

AN ACT making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the year ending June thirty, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated, for the objects hereinafter expressed, for the fiscal year ending the thirtieth June, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, viz:

For the survey of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States, (including compensation of civilians engaged in the work, and excluding pay and emoluments of officers of the army and navy, and petty officers and men of the navy employed on the work,) one hundred and seventy-eight thousand dollars.

For continuing the survey of the western coast of the United States, (including compensation of civilians engaged in the work,) one hundred thousand dollars.

For continuing the survey of the Florida reefs and keys, (including compensation of civilians engaged in the work, and excluding pay and emoluments of officers of the army and navy, and petty officers and men of the navy employed on the work,) eleven thousand dollars.

For publishing the observations made in the progress of the survey of the coast of the United States, (including compensation of civilians employed in the work,) four thousand dollars.

For repairs of steamers and sailing schooners used in the coast survey, four thousand dollars.

For pay and rations of engineers for four steamers engaged in the hydrographic and coast survey, no longer supplied by the Navy Department, nine thousand dollars.

For supplying deficiency in the fund for the relief of sick and disabled seamen, one hundred thousand dollars.

For discharge of such miscellaneous claims, not otherwise provided for, as shall be admitted in due course of settlement at the Treasury, ten thousand dollars.

For the Atlantic, Gulf, and Lake coasts, viz: For supplying the light-house and beacon lights with oil, wicks, glass chimneys, and other necessary expenses of the same, repairing and keeping in repair the lighting apparatus, one hundred and fifty-four thousand six hundred and ninety-eight dollars and eighty cents.

For pay of light-house keepers, one hundred and ninety-three thousand and thirty-three cents.

For salaries of forty-three keepers of light vessels, three thousand nine hundred dollars.

For the wages, rations, and other expenses of forty-five light vessels, one hundred and seventy thousand nine hundred and sixty-seven dollars and seventy cents.

For expenses of raising, cleaning, painting, repairing, re-roofing, and supplying losses of boats, one hundred and twenty thousand three hundred and fifty dollars.

For expenses of visiting and inspecting lights and other aids to navigation, two thousand dollars.

For the purchase of a lot and erection of a suitable building thereon for the light-house establishment in New York city or vicinity, fifty thousand dollars: Provided, That the price of purchase of lot, and erection of building thereon, shall not exceed the sum hereby appropriated.

FOR THE COASTS OF CALIFORNIA, OREGON, AND WASHINGTON.

For supplying nineteen light-houses and beacon-lights with oil, glass chimneys, chimneys, polishing powder, and other cleaning materials, transportation, expenses of rigging lamps and machinery in repair, publishing notices to mariners of changes of aids to navigation, seventeen thousand two hundred and seventy dollars.

For repairs and incidental expenses of nine light-houses and buildings connected therewith, fifteen thousand dollars.

For salaries of forty-three keepers and assistant keepers of light-houses, at an average not exceeding eight hundred dollars per annum, twenty-five thousand eight hundred dollars.

For expenses of raising, cleaning, painting, repairing, re-roofing, and supplying losses of floating buoys and beacons, and for chains and sinkers for the same, and for coloring and numbering all the buoys, ten thousand dollars.

For maintenance of the vessel, provided for by the act of August, eighteen hundred and fifty-six, for transportation of supplies and materials, and for repairs of light-houses, and buoy service, and for inspection purposes, twenty thousand dollars.

For compensation of two inspectors of customs acting as superintendents for the life saving stations on the coasts of Long Island and New Jersey, three thousand dollars.

For compensation of fifty-four keepers of stations, at two hundred dollars each, ten thousand eight hundred dollars.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

For support, care, and medical treatment of forty transient paupers, medical and surgical patients in some proper medical institution in the city of Washington, to be selected by the Commissioner of Public Buildings, six thousand dollars.

For hire of carts on the public grounds, two thousand dollars.

For purchase and repair of tools used in the public grounds, two thousand dollars.

For purchase of trees and tree-boxes, to replace when necessary such as have been planted by the United States, to whitewash tree-boxes and fences, and to repair pavements in front of the public grounds, three thousand dollars.

For casual repairs of the Capitol, water-closets, public stables, water-pipes, pavements, and other walks within the Capitol square, broken glass, and locks, and for the protection of the building, and keeping the main approaches to it unencumbered, eight thousand dollars.

For annual repairs of the President's House and furniture, improvement of grounds, purchase of plants for garden, and contingent expenses incident thereto, six thousand dollars.

For fuel, in part, of the President's House, two thousand four hundred dollars.

For lighting the Capitol and President's House, the public grounds around them, and around the executive offices, and Pennsylvania avenue, Bridge and High streets in Georgetown, Four and a half street, Second street, and the streets to the east, sixty two thousand dollars.

To enable the Commissioner of Public Buildings to erect two new furnaces under the rotunda of the Capitol, two under the old hall of the House, and two under the Supreme Court room, and to use the same, five thousand five hundred dollars.

For repairs of the Potomac, navy yard, and upper bridges, and the roads appurtenant thereto, and to repair the house occupied by the bridge-keeper at the navy yard, and to erect a wharf to protect the house, eleven thousand five hundred and eighty-five dollars.

For repairs of Pennsylvania avenue, six thousand dollars.

For public reservation number two and Lafayette square, two thousand dollars.

For taking care of the grounds south of the President's House, containing (including the improvement of the same, and replanting trees destroyed last winter and spring by United States cavalry, repairing fences, and other injuries, two thousand dollars.

For repairs of water-pipes, five hundred dollars.

For cleaning out the sewer traps on Pennsylvania avenue and repairing the same, three hundred dollars.

For casual repairs of all the furnaces under the Capitol, five hundred dollars.

For continuing the repairs of Delaware avenue north of the Capitol, one thousand dollars.

For moving back the fence, paving the foot-path on First street between the Capitol grounds and Botanic garden, and making a pavement on Third street on the side of said garden, one thousand two hundred dollars.

For making improvements provided for in the thirteenth section of the city charter, per act of May seventeen, eighteen hundred and forty-eight, five thousand dollars.

For improvement of B street south from Sixth to Seventh street west, Maine avenue from the City to Sixth street west, and Four and a half, east side, from Missouri to Maine avenue, all bordering on the public grounds, according to the surveyor's estimate, six thousand nine hundred and forty dollars.

For repairs and rebuilding fence around Smithsonian grounds, two thousand dollars.

For compensation to the Commissioner of Public Buildings, as disbursing agent of the Patent Office building and the Capitol extension and dome, for the current fiscal year, five hundred dollars.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

For the support, clothing, and medical treatment of the insane of the army and navy and of the revenue service, and of the District of Columbia, in the Government hospital in said District, including five hundred dollars for books, stationery, and incidental expenses, fifty thousand five hundred dollars.

For finishing, furnishing, heating, and lighting of additional accommodations in the east wing, five thousand dollars.

For extension of workshops and machinery therefor, to afford additional facilities for the curative and economical employment of patients, two thousand dollars.

For construction of the wall enclosing the grounds of the hospital, ten thousand dollars.

EXPLORED EXPEDITION.

For preservation of the collections of the exploring and surveying expeditions of the Government, four thousand dollars.

BOTANIC GARDEN.

For grading, draining, procuring manure, tools, fuel and repairs, purchasing trees and shrubs under the direction of Library Committee of Congress, three thousand three hundred and forty dollars.

For pay of horticulturalist and assistants in the botanic garden and greenhouses, to be expended under the direction of the Committee of Congress, five thousand one hundred and twenty-one dollars and fifty cents.

COLUMBIA INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

For salaries and incidental expenses of said institution, four thousand four hundred dollars.

For supplying the institution building with gas-making apparatus and fixtures, one thousand four hundred and seventy dollars.

For supplying the institution buildings with steam-heating apparatus, two thousand two hundred and fifty dollars.

EXPENSES OF OFFICE.

For expenses of receiving, arranging and taking care of copyright books, charts and other copyright matter, one thousand eight hundred dollars.

For repairing illustrations and descriptions for report, five thousand dollars.

For the salaries of the clerks in the north wing of the Patent Office building, and for furnishing the same with suitable cases and accommodations for the reception and convenient exhibition of models, fifty thousand dollars.

For repairing and painting the saloon in the old portion of the Patent Office building, and for furnishing the same with suitable cases and accommodations for the [rejection and convenient exhibition of models, twenty-five thousand dollars.

SURVEY OF THE PUBLIC LANDS.

For surveying the public lands, (exclusive of California, Oregon, Washington, New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Utah, Dakota, Colorado and Nevada,) including incidental expenses and island surveys in the interior, and all other special and difficult surveys demanding augmented rates, to be apportioned and applied to the several surveying districts, according to the exigencies of the public service, in addition to the unexpended balance of all former appropriations for the same objects, ten thousand dollars.

For surveying the public lands and private land claims in California and Territory of Nevada, twenty-five thousand dollars.

For surveying the public lands in Kansas and Nebraska, fifteen thousand dollars.

For surveying the public lands in Oregon, ten thousand dollars.

For surveying the public lands in Washington Territory, five thousand dollars.

For surveying the public lands in the Territory of Colorado, five thousand dollars.

For salaries and commissions of register and receiver for the Territory of Colorado for fiscal years ending thirtieth June, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and thirtieth June, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, two thousand five hundred dollars; expenses for depositary for said periods, two hundred dollars.

For incidental expenses, furniture, iron safes, fifteen hundred dollars.

For salaries and commissions of register and receiver for the Territory of Colorado for the fiscal years ending thirtieth June, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and thirtieth June, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, two thousand five hundred dollars; expenses for depositary for said periods, two hundred dollars.

For incidental expenses, furniture, iron safes, fifteen hundred dollars.

For purchase and fitting up of coffee-roses, cooler and mill, in the inspection office of provisions and stores in New York, one thousand one hundred and sixty-seven dollars and forty cents.

For completion of the court house at Indianapolis, five thousand dollars.

For continuing the work on the Capitol extension, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

For payment of arrearages to Capitol police due under act of April twenty-second, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, nine thousand five hundred dollars.

For continuing the work on the new dome of the Capitol, two hundred thousand dollars.

For defraying the expenses incurred in taking the census of the Territory of Dakota, one thousand four hundred and fifty dollars.

For defraying the expenses of taking the census of the Territory of Nevada, two thousand five hundred dollars.

For the purchase of a Territorial library for the Territories of Colorado, Dakota and Nevada, two thousand five hundred dollars each.

For salaries of governor, three judges, secretary and superintendent of Indian Affairs, fourteen thousand dollars.

For contingent expenses of said Territory, one thousand dollars.

For interpreter and translator in the executive office, five hundred dollars.

For compensation and mileage of the members of the legislative assembly, officers, clerks and contingent expenses, eighteen thousand dollars.

For incidental expenses of the Indian service in the Territory of Arizona, and for presents of goods, clothing and other useful articles to the Indians, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, ten thousand dollars.

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For incidental expenses of the Indian service in the Territory of Arizona, and for presents of goods, clothing and other useful articles to the Indians, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, ten thousand dollars.

For the purchase of a Territorial library for the Territories of Colorado, Dakota and Nevada, two thousand five hundred dollars each.

For salaries of governor, three judges, secretary and superintendent of Indian Affairs, fourteen thousand dollars.

For contingent expenses of said Territory, one thousand dollars.

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